INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS AMONG DISABLED PEOPLE: A STUDY OF VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT

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INTRODUCTION

The concept of "Information Literacy" describes the ability to identify when information is required, how to find, evaluate and use information effectively and ethically. The Association of College and Research Libraries defines information literacy as a "set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning (ACRL)". The study will investigate the information literacy skills among the disabled people like, how the disabled people identify, find, evaluate and finally utilize the information from both print and electronic sources of information. Highest numbers of disabled people in vijayapura district are illiterate because of their poverty and hesitation of disability. Therefore, the study also identifies the facilities provided by the government to make them literate people.

"The information revolution has significantly enhanced the ability to access and utilize the information, using various sources, including electronically published information. Compare to people with physical disabled, intellectual disabled, mentally illness people and chronic neurological condition's people are have low literacy and it is difficult for these disabled people to come out from impairment and lead normal life with education especially in vijayapura district of Karnataka. Therefore, the study only focus on the people with physical disabled and it is necessary to know how much physically disabled people are aware about information literacy and what are the skills they use to get and utilize the information in everyday life and it is very important for them to have education for lifelong learning.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

- **Information Literacy Skills**
  The Association of College and Research Libraries defines **information literacy** as a "set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued and use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning".

- **Disabilities**
  World Health Organization Defines, "Disabilities is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. Impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Disability is thus not just a health problem. It is a complex phenomenon, reflecting the interaction between featured of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives".

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

National Studies

Moghaddaszadeh and Nikam (2012) carried out a survey of faculty members and research scholars of Bangalore University to explore their attitude towards information literacy. The findings of the study revealed that 68.6% of the respondents were able to identify different types of potential sources for information. 70.5% of the respondent preferred to evaluate the information sources and 65.6% of the respondents understood many of the ethical, legal and socio-economic issues surrounding information and information technology. A review of the literature reveals that no

such study/ survey has been undertaken in the area of Punjab on the student of information literacy. So the need was felt to do a comprehensive study on information literacy among the students of universities of Punjab and Chandigarh.

Vicky Wilson (2013) carried out a study into new possibilities for the provision of information literacy education to remote external students through the use of new communication technologies at Edith Cowan University. The study investigated levels of student's confidence in performing information seeking and critical thinking tasks prior to enrolment. The academic librarians who undertake the information literacy programs need considerable interpersonal and communication skills to achieve the goals and will have to possess subject knowledge and a sound grounding in educational theory. The survey results are presented together with some conclusions about future directions for user education in academic libraries.

Swarnamugi and Santhi (2014) summarized the overview of an investigation into information literacy programmes of various types of Indian government sectors and nongovernment organizations and e-governance initiatives. The information society is where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge. It enables individuals, communities and people to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life. The concept of information literacy concentrates more on cognitive, transferable skills, such as problem-solving, evaluation and communication.

Prasad Rao et.al (2015) discussed about the concept of information literacy skills and its importance in the present e-information world. Emerging technologies and digital files have revolutionized library and information services. The growth and development of information communication and Technology and its use in general and internet in particular have given utmost recognition. The e-information world is characterized by access to information rather than holding the information. Every reader requires the right information as per his/her need, quickly accurately and economically. Hence, libraries and librarians have to think and devise innovative ways to reach out to their communities.

Chanchinmania and Manojkumar Verma (2018) the study attempted to make an assessment of information literacy skills among research scholars of Mizoram University. Information literacy comprises the abilities to recognize information needs and to locate, evaluate, apply and create information within cultural and social contexts. The study revealed that the research scholars and adequate skills in handing information for their basic needs. The results of the study showed that there is urgent need for the inclusion of information literacy programmes in the course curriculum and more awareness is required among students that will make the students more information literate.

International Studies

Shoes (2011) conducted a study to assess information literacy competency among undergraduate business students of private university of Bangladesh. The findings of the study revealed that 51.5% students had classes on findings and using information. 53% of the students had good computer facilities to access while 51.5% had interest access before admission at the university. 19.7% of the respondents had high level of skills in determining their information needs. Only 16.7% of the respondents had sufficient skills to evaluate the information and 78.6% of the respondents did not have knowledge of ethics of information use.

Duncan and Varcoe (2012) conducted a survey of students of a Georgian College in Ontario to examine their information literacy skills and also to measure the effectiveness of information literacy models delivered to them. 75% of the respondents preferred search engines to find information followed by websites (51.6%), consulting teachers and library staff (19.4%) and using Wikipedia (17.7%). 93.5% of the respondents had knowledge about the criteria used for evaluation of Internet resources. The findings further revealed that 51.6% respondents were familiar with the ethics of information use and about 70% of the students understood the issues related with copying. 74% of the respondents were able to identify a citation from a given statement. 54.1% of the respondents had knowledge about the Boolean operators.

Pinto ea.al (2012) carried out a survey of doctoral students of information science of four universities in Spain and Latin America to find out students perceptions of their won information literacy competency. The results of the survey revealed that 63% of the respondents rated themselves sufficient in determining their information needs. 75.6% of the respondents were able to identify sources according to their information needs. The findings further showed that 61% of the respondents need training in organization and evaluation of the quality of information.

Demo (2013) undertook a survey of undergraduate students of polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania to assess their information literacy skills. The results revealed that majority (64%) of the students preferred search engines for locating information followed by asking 20 friends (58%), library professionals (34%) and faculty (22%). Only 10% of the respondents consulted library catalogue to locate the needed information. The findings further revealed that 94% of the respondents had good understanding of the Boolean operators.

Wahoush and Benfield (2013) conducted an online survey to examine the frequency and use of information sources and resources among undergraduate nursing students. The use of electronic sources of information was the most reported sources by both students and registered nurses. Limited access to the hospital library was the biggest challenge for accessing information.

The study observes that many studies have done on Information Literacy, Information Literacy Skills and Disabled People in the field of social science and library and information science but the very few studies have done on disabled people in field of library and information science in Indian Context. Especially on information literacy skills among disabled people, there is no studies have done on it. Therefore, the study intended to conduct research on **"Information Literacy Skills Among Disabled People: A Study of Vijayapura District".**

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS AMONG DISABLED PEOPLE: A STUDY OF VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT

NEED OF THE STUDY

Today, information has become a most important profitable product and citizens need to be educated for productive information use and utilization. Information literacy is not only important for education, job or competence it is important for lifelong learning, to lead better life with knowledge information literacy skills are needful for everyone to acquire and use the information. Disabled or abled information is common and need for all disciplines. Therefore, this study is intended to identify the information literacy skills among disabled people. Information literacy is important owing to the amount of information that is available in contemporary society. Simply being exposed to a great deal of information will not make people informed citizens; they need to learn how to use this information effectively, ACRL (2000). So, to bring in disabled people into the mainstream of the society is needful for the development of disabled people as well as development of our nation. Having good information literacy for the better life is required. For that reason, to find out information literacy skills among disabled people are necessary.

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the information literacy skills among physically disabled people.
2. To identify awareness, use and satisfaction level of library resources by physically disabled people.
3. To make comparison of the level of information literacy skills among the different types of physically disabled people.
4. To assess the awareness, use and satisfaction level of Karnataka Government schemes and services by disable people.
5. To know the Assistive Technologies used by physically disabled people.

HYPOTHESIS

- There is a correlation among the level of awareness, extent of use and level of satisfaction about the information sources among the disabled people.
- There is a difference between male and female disabled people with respect with to Information Literacy Skills.
- The use of information sources to be considered as one of the important predictor to influence on level of information literacy skills among disabled people.
- There is no relation between male and female disabled with respect to level of awareness about e-resources.
- Significant difference is there among the different social classes (GM, OBC, SC, ST, and Minority) of disabled people to information literacy skills.
- A significant difference is there between education qualifications of the disabled people with respect to information literacy skills.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is designed to determine and analyze the information literacy skills among disabled people of vijayapura district under the age group of 15-35. The descriptive survey method is adopted and use to supplement the data collection through questionnaire. Questionnaire and interview tools are use for collection of data by the respondents. To enhance its reliability, the collected data has analyze and present in tabular forms using appropriate statistical data analysis tools.

Sampling Technique: Stratified random sampling method is used for selection of sample.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The study focuses on disabled people of vijayapura district. To complete this study researcher intended to collect data from the 13 Taluka's of vijayapura district disabled people. Both male and female respondents have covered in this study. The study consist only literate people with physically disabled of vijayapura district. In the people with physically disabled the researcher only covered the following disabilities:

A) Physical Disability
1. Muscular dystrophy
2. Dwarfism

B) Visual Impairment
1. Blindness
2. Low Vision

C) Hearing Impairment
1. Deafness
2. High Hearing Loss

D) Speech and Language Disability

The study has 15-35 years age limitation of physically disabled people.

CONCLUSION

Information literacy skills among disabled people of vijayapura district who are studying in school, college and universities and also employers and unemployed literate people especially among rural area disabled people along with their habitual study searching skills is very much important for building information literacy skills, knowledge, lifelong learning skills and empowerment of disabled. This can be successful with the initiatives efforts of the librarian, educational institutes and district or state empowerment and welfare department of disabled persons and also interest of the disabled people.

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